

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for multicasting a plurality of receiver membership reports containing receiver information for a plurality of multicast source systems, the method comprising the steps of:

collecting receiver information for the plurality of multicast source systems;

aggregating the receiver information for each multicast source system into a respective record;

aggregating the plurality of respective records into a single message; and

multicasting the single message to a group address.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of aggregating the receiver information further comprises the step of:

indexing each respective record using an address associated with each multicast source system.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the address is an IP address of each multicast source system.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiver information comprises a source identifier, a multicast group, and a group record.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the group record comprises one of Transmit and Hold.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the

steps of:

accessing a corresponding respective record from the single message; and

enabling each multicast source system to respond based upon the receiver information in each corresponding respective record.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method operates according to a multicast source notification of interest protocol.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A system for multicasting a plurality of receiver membership reports containing receiver information, the system comprising:

a plurality of multicast source systems for receiving receiver information; and

a router for collecting receiver information for the plurality of multicast source systems; aggregating the receiver information for each multicast source system into a respective record; aggregating the plurality of respective records into a single message; and multicasting the single message to a group address.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the router indexes each respective record using an address associated with each multicast source system.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the address is an IP address of each multicast source system.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the receiver information comprises a source identifier, a multicast group, and a group record.

13. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein each multicast source system accesses a corresponding respective record from the single message and responds based upon the receiver information in each corresponding respective record.

14. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein multicasting the plurality of receiver membership reports operates according to a multicast source notification of interest protocol.

15. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for multicasting a plurality of receiver membership reports containing receiver information for a plurality of multicast source systems, the article of manufacture comprising:

at least one ~~processor-readable~~ processor-readable carrier;
and

instructions carried on the at least one carrier;

wherein the instructions are configured to be readable from the at least one carrier by at least one processor and thereby cause the at least one processor to operate so as to:

collect receiver information for the plurality of multicast source systems;

aggregate the receiver information for each multicast source system into a respective record;

aggregate the plurality of respective records into a single message; and

multicast the single message to a group address.

16. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the at least one processor is further caused to operate so as to:

index each respective record using an address associated with each multicast source system.

17. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 16, wherein the address is an IP address of each multicast source system.

18. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the receiver information comprises a source identifier, a multicast group, and a group record.

19. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the at least one processor is further caused to operate so as to:

access a corresponding respective record from the single message; and

enable each multicast source system to respond based upon the receiver information in each corresponding respective record.

20. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the article of manufacture operates according to a multicast source notification of interest protocol.